COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, the *14th of February 1933.*
3rd of Kumbham 1108.

The House met at half-past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. A. I. Mani, K. Mohamed Seethi and Mrs. Swaris were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

People of the State frequenting British areas for drinking toddy, arrack, etc.

211. Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any statistics are being maintained regarding people who frequent British areas across the Nemmara outpost for the purpose of drinking toddy, arrack, etc.;

(b) whether the Excise Commissioner has checked such statistics;

(c) whether the Excise Commissioner has made any enquiries into the success or failure of the prohibition scheme;

(d) whether the Ezhuva tappers who earn their living by tapping sweet toddy have made representations to the Commissioner regarding their present plight on account of prohibition;

(e) what is the probable loss of revenue to the Government by this prohibition scheme being introduced in Nemmara;

(f) has the Excise Commissioner submitted any report to the Government after making enquiries;

(g) whether it is not possible for stopping the entire arrangements and give relief by granting permission to the tappers to tap at least sweet toddy?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) A rough account of the number of people frequenting British shops is maintained by the frontier post orderlies.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) About Rs. 12,000 on an average, exclusive of cost of additional staff, sheds, etc., amounting to Rs. 1,470.

(f) No final report has been sent.

(g) The question is under consideration.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—May I know whether the Ezhuva tappers will be given permission to tap sweet toddy at least this year?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Whether by granting such permission the Government will be defeated in its object of making prohibition a success?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—There is the likelihood of illicit traffic in toddy if license is given.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Is it not possible to have such illicit tapping detected by the officers of the department?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We want several extra hands to watch every tree that is tapped.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is this amount of Rs. 1,470 towards the maintenance of the outposts?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Not exactly for that. Additional peons were posted there. It includes the cost of sheds, etc.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know what will be the amount for the maintenance?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Rs. 375. Eight peons were also deputed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Do the Government think that those who transport toddy illicitly go by the road?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—They can go by the public road or any other way.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What will be the approximate number of toddy tappers?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Below 1,000—800 and odd.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—So all these people are out of employment now. Are they allowed to tap sweet toddy?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is there any connection between sweet toddy and fermented toddy? Sweet toddy is not an alcoholic drink. There is no objection to tap sweet toddy. Is there any objection in tapping sweet toddy from the excise point of view?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—There is no objection. But they might convert it into fermented toddy, that is the difficulty.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—But that practice may take place anywhere and in any other locality.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—There are only 800 trees.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are the Government aware that jaggery tapping is a home industry there?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I do not know.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Government make any inquiries before introducing prohibition, that by putting stop to sweet toddy tapping it will deprive so many people of their livelihood?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian.—This was considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Who is the officer who inquired into it?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The Circle Inspector, the Sub-Inspector and the then Commissioner.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the report submitted by them?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I cannot exactly say the nature of the report.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The sum and substance of the report?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I want notice.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is tapping in sweet toddy free of license in British Malabar?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is there any instance of illicit tapping there?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Though there are trees for tapping sweet toddy and fermented toddy, the licensees will convert the sweet toddy into fermented toddy. The only person interested is the Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What steps have been taken by the Government to give employment to those who have gone out of employment?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—No steps have been taken by this Department.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether the Government consider it necessary to provide them with employment?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Whether the prohibition is to be continued or not is under consideration.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—(f) Has the Excise Commissioner submitted any interim report to the Government?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know what is the spirit of that report?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The report is that the result so far is not very satisfactory.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are there any special reasons why it is not working satisfactorily?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The special reasons are people resort to British shops for their drink.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is there not a decided reduction in the number of the so-called gentlemen taking into drink?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I don't know.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the Government take any steps to dissuade the people from going to drink? They

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were keeping a list of persons going to drink in the British shops.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Not by this Department.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In view of the matter that has been brought to the attention of the Government that the home industry has been discontinued, will the Government be pleased to consider and take necessary steps to encourage this home industry by permitting the tapping of sweet toddy?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—It will be considered.

Writing off of account under timber contracts due from Hussain Khan.

212. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they had a contractor by name Hussain Khan of Naniode since '97;

(2) what were the amounts for which he had contracted;

(3) was a portion of the amount due from him written off lately;

(4) if so, what was the amount so written off;

(5) will the Government be pleased to place on the table the kychit executed by him in the case in which the write-off had to be made;

(6) had he removed all the timber contracted for;

(7) had he the required pass;

(8) what was the reason for the write-off—impossiblity to collect the amount or inability to supply him the quality contracted for;

(9) who is responsible for the non-collection;

(10) was any explanation taken from him;

(11) if so, will the Government be pleased to place it on the table?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—(1) There was a contractor Hussain Khan by name. He belonged to Pollachi and not to Naniode.

(2) Rs. 6,656—1—3 as sale proceeds of forest growth.

(3) Yes.

(4) Rs. 2,192—14—6 out of the sale amount and Rs. 1,727—2—5 on account of interest on the amount guaranteed to the Government according to kychit executed for Rs. 3,920—0—11.

(5) Copy is placed on the Council Table. (*Appendix I.*)

(6) No.

(7) The question is not clear.

(8) The former.

(9) None.

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